



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
STATEWIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
Phone: (916) 445-8200
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



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Attachment 8

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
c/o State Fire Training
1131 S. Street,
Sacramento, California 95811

From: Jim Eastman, Fire Service Training Specialist, State Fire Training

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Emergency Vehicle Technician Instructor Requirements

Recommended Actions: Information/Discussion

Background Information:

The California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES) was established to provide a single statewide focus for fire service training in California. CFSTES is a composite of all the elements that contribute to the development, delivery, and administration of training for the California fire service. The authority for the central coordination of this effort is vested in the State Fire Training (SFT) of the California State Fire Marshal's Office with oversight provided by the State Training Education Committee and State Board of Fire Services.

CFSTES facilitates, coordinates, and assists in the development and implementation of standards and certification for the California fire service. CFSTES:

- Administers the California Fire Academy System
- Provides accredited courses leading to certification and approved standardized training programs for local and regional delivery
- Administers the national accreditation process in California
- Publishes certification training standards, course plans, and a capstone task book for each certified level in the California fire service

CFSTES is a fire service system developed by the fire service, for the fire service. It is only as successful and effective as the people involved in it.

One of the most historical established stakeholders within CFSTES is the California Fire Mechanics Academy, Incorporated (CFMA). CFMA is the oldest and largest Emergency Vehicle Technician Training Academy in the United States (U.S.). Since 1971, CFMA has been providing the finest training opportunities for emergency apparatus repair and maintenance. The workshops are very hands-on, giving participants not only the theory but the opportunity to work on trucks, take pumps apart, get their hands on the actual apparatus they'll be using in the field.

Historically, CFMA has been using instructors from the industry such as fire apparatus manufacturers, pump manufacturers, transmission manufacturers and other manufacturers that provide apparatus and replacement components for emergency response equipment throughout the United States and here in California. These manufactures have very specific guidelines and restrictions for who is qualified and allowed to make authorized manufacturer repairs to stay within guidelines of warranties and or maintaining manufacturers designed recommendations. These instructors are not registered as instructors with SFT. Historically, the quality assurance of these instructors has been maintained directly by CFMA.

A joint meeting was held with SFT Staff, CFMA board members and Chief Coleman on August 18, 2014. At this meeting, Chief Coleman presented a brief historical review of STEAC for the 1980's up to the current Blueprint 2020. Some discussion centered around the utilization of these instructors. Chief Coleman challenged the group of attendees by asking this question, "How do we redesign the future? By designing where you want to be."

At this meeting, it was identified that many types of instructors exist which includes instructors that are from the manufacturers' industry such as Waterous Pumps, Hale Pumps, Allison Transmissions, and various fire apparatus manufacturers. One of the concerns identified was how to continue utilizing these industry experts that represent these manufacturers that are recognized and participate with the standards developed and adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

Following is an analysis of Emergency Vehicle Technician Instructor Requirements.

1. Manufacturer Instructors for the new Emergency Vehicle Technician courses need to continue to be utilized as these instructors are the approved manufacturer experts to deliver, train, approve and authorized repairs, maintenance and or modifications as authorized by the industry manufacturers within the guidelines of their design and operation.
2. These manufacturer instructors have long been institutionalized and embedded in the curriculum of the CFMA.
3. Recognize that these instructors may not meet the full SFT requirements for Registered Instructors, however the quality assurance will continue to be maintained by CFMA.
4. In addition, some exceptions need to be evaluated: current instructors, in good standing, need to be historically recognized which includes national or factory certified technical vocational training specialists that are considered trade journalists in the industry. These instructors are currently approved and endorsed by the CFMA.
5. These courses also utilize manufacturer instructors to maintain relevancy and recency with respect to industry trends, industry awareness and industry issues prior to waiting for standards to be passed and incorporated into education materials developed during later dates utilizing traditional educational curriculum development. These manufacture experts need to be utilized to share their expertise and knowledge with others.

It is the intent to initiate discussion about alternative instructor qualifications specific to certain disciplines of instruction such as the Fire Mechanics Academy. During the discussion, potential unintended consequences need to be identified and noted with respect to viable options or considerations to evaluate utilization of non-certified instructors.